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## Members React to House Vote to Prevent Distribution of Abortion Pills to School Children:

**RSC Press Release****Wednesday, September 19, 2000**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Neil Bradley 202-226-2273

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today Members of the House of Representatives sent a clear message that they do not want tax dollars being used to provide schoolchildren with the so-called "morning-after" abortion pill. The 250 to 170 vote came on a motion by **Rep. Tom Coburn (R-OK)** to agree to a Senate provision in the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education Appropriations bill prohibiting the use of funds to distribute the morning-after pill to minors in elementary and secondary schools. The Senate provision was authored by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and was adopted by voice vote after a motion to kill the amendment failed 41 to 54.

**Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)** stated, "It is outrageous that while school children need a parent's consent to receive aspirin at school, abortion pills are being administered without parental knowledge or consent."

**Rep. Jim DeMint (R-SC)** added, "Parents expect our schools to protect and educate our children not give them abortion drugs."

**Rep. Tom Coburn (R-OK)**, a practicing physician, stated, "Parents have a right to know what medical treatments are being given to their children. It is unconscionable that schoolchildren, not even in their teens, would be given the morning-after pill at school."

"Today's vote is a step in the right direction in the defense of parental rights. I hope the Conferees on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill heed this vote and finally put an end to taxpayer-financed distribution of the morning-after pill to schoolchildren," stated **Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-PA)**.

Rep. Pitts added, "It is unbelievable to me that 41 Senators and 170 House Members would advocate the distribution of abortion drugs to 13 year-old schoolchildren without their parents consent, let alone knowledge."

According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, at least 180 schools provide the morning-after pill to students.

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